Plane Blasted

CUBANS CAP

MAP CHARTS PATH believed taken by small plane which Cuban authorities said was shot down by anti-aircraft fire near Rancho Veloz.

By FENTON WHEELER

HAVANA (AP)—The Cuban government announced today it had shot down and captured an ex-paratrooper from the United States after he dropped a package with a rifle while flying his small plane over Cuba Dec. 29.

The Interior Ministry announcement identified the pilot as Everett Jackson, 27, of Los Angeles. The ministry said his single-engine Taylorcraft was hit by antiaircraft fire over the central Cuban city of Rancho Veloz. The plane fell on Falcon's Key on the north coast in the province of Las Villas.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT DID NOT say what has happened to Jackson since his capture or if he was injured

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when his plane was downed. The Interior Ministry described Jackson's motive as "to infiltrate national territory."

The announcement was published on the first page of the Communist party newspaper Grama and in the semi-official El Mundo.

There was no indication of why the government delayed so long in making the announcement. The news was first broken by Havana radio.

At Homestead, Fla., an airport official and an employe said Jackson and another man boarded Jackson's plane the last time it left the airport. Both wore parachutes, according to Rudy Wanderon, Airport Authority supervisor.

WANDERON SAID THE DOOR OF the plane was off at takeoff, normal procedure on a flight from which a parachustist will jump.

The Cuban broadcast said only one man was aboard the aircraft when it was downed but the radio emphasized that the package containing a rifle, camera, maps, 200 bullets, and a set of binoculars was dropped by parachute before the antiaircraft guns found their mark.

ASKED IN MIAMI ABOUT Jackson's background, Fay Lanahan, supervising inspector for the FAA, said, "The FBI had him under surveillance for several months. He was trying to get someone to fly him down there."

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Pilot--

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"He had aspirations of taking a camera along and taking pictures of rocket bases and selling them to the news media," Lanahan said.

The Coast Guard in Miami said it had no report of a missing plane matching the description given of Jackson's plane. The Federal Aviation Administration in Miami said its reports on missing aircraft were not available.

The plane was described in the broadcast, monitored in Miami, as a Taylorcraft with identification No .L96467.

ROBERT M. CHEATWOOD of Miami said he sold the 1946 Taylorcraft to Jackson for $1,200 on Nov. 18, 1967. He said the plane had the regis- identification No. L96467.

"I got the impression when I sold him the airplane that he had something in mind," Cheatwood said. "He wanted to go out without doors on it. He said he was a photographer and wanted to take pictures out of it."

"He asked if it was safe to jump out of it. He said he was a paratrooper," Cheatwood said.

MRS. JIM HOLLAND, operator of a flight service office at Homestead Airport, said Jackson purchased gasoline Dec. 28, the night before Cuban radio said he was shot down. The address he gave was in Miami's Southwest section where many Cubans live.

"He said he would leave early the next morning to go up North," said Mrs. Holland. "He owes me $26.98."

The broadcast said the pilot was shot down north of the central Cuba city of De Rancho Veloz and the plane fell on an island called "Falcon's Key."

"THE PILOT was captured by forces of the interior minister," the broadcast said.

The newscast said Jackson identified himself as a former member of the 82nd and 101st Airborne units, who had served in Germany with the 11th Division.

He said he left Homestead Airport about 50 miles south of Miami at 4 p.m. Dec. 29 "and he had come to Cuba with the purpose of infiltrating into the national territory," the broadcast said.

Cadiz Bay is located about 125 miles due east of Havana and 60 miles northwest of the Las Villas provincial capital, Santa Clara.